THE Life and glorious Character

Of the Right Honourable

Laurence Hyde,

Earl of *ROCHESTER*, Lord President of the Privy-Council, and Uncle to Her present Majesty Queen *ANNE*, who suddenly departed this Life at his House near the *Cock-Pit* in *White-Hall*, on *Wednesday* the 2d of *May* 1711, in the 70th Year of his Age. With an Elegy and Epitaph on the said Nobleman.

Licens'd and Entred according to Order.

LONDON, Printed by *J. Smith* near *Fleet-Street*.

The Life and glorious Actions, &c.

THE Subject of uur following Relation is on the right honourable *Laurence Hide* Earl of *Rochester*, the second Son to the right honourable Edward Earl of *Clarendon*; who, for his great Fidelity, Merits and Loyalty extended towards King *Charles* the second, in the time of his Exile or Banishment, was preferred, after his Majesty's Restauration to his Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, to the high Station and Dignity of being Lord high Chancellor, and one of the King's most honourable Privy Council.

His eldest Brother, is *Edward Hide*, Earl of *Clarendon*, who after the Decease of his Father, who died at *Mompelier* on the Confines of *France* anp *Spain*, where he had built a noble House, as fine as that which was called *Dunkirk-House*, once oppsite to St-*James's Palace*, and built also by his Lordship, but now demolished, succeeded him in the Earldom; and this the said *Laurence Hide* deceased, for his extraordinary Merits was created Earl of *Rochester*, by King *Charles the second* upon

upon the deceaſe of the witty *John Wilmot*, who bore the ſame Title,

His Siſter Ann *Hide, a moſt Beauriful and Vertuous Lady, was Married to the moſt Illuſtrious Highneſs James Duke of* York, *the next Heir to the Crown, but ſhe dying before that Prince aſcended the Throne of* England, *by the Death of his Brother Charlet, ſhe arrived not the Granieur of being a Co-partner with his Royal Highneſs in weilding the* Britiſh *Sceptre. And though the E. of* Rocheſter *was ſo nearly allied to King* James *the ſecond, as to be the Brother of a Crowned Head by Marriage, yet ſo great was his Affection for the* Church *of* England, *rf which he was a moſt faithful Member, that when the aforeſaid King* James *endeavoured to iutrduce here, Popery and arbiurary Power, by ordering all* Roman Catholick *Officers to continue in their Places, entertaining the* Pope's Nuncio *from Rome, bringing Father* Peter's *a Jeſuite to the Helm of Affairs, by making him a Privy Councellor, erecting a high Commiſſion Court to Cenſure the Clergy, turning the Proteſtant Fellows out of* Magdalen *College in* Oxford, *ſuſpendind the preſent Biſhop of London, taking Charters away from moſt of the Engliſh Corporations, increaſing ſtanding Forces, procuring ſuch to be Members of Parliament, who were willing to take away the Penal Laws and Teſts, ſending* William Sancroft, *and ſix other Biſhops to the* Tower, *and afterwards trying them at the King's Bench*

Bar

Bar, but acquitted for petitioning the King to revoke his Order of Reading his Declaration for Liberty of Conſcience in Churches, in time of Divine Service, and toumping up a young Perkin upon us by his *Italian* Conſort, *Mary de Eſti*, the Duke of *Modena*'s Daughter, his Lordſhip was a great Inſtrument in bringing about the glorious Revolution, on which our happineſs hath depended ever ſince.

Now after King *James* had withdrawn himſelf to *France*, making by ſuch his Abdication the Throne vacant, he, with other Noblemen fill'd the ſame by cauſing King *William* and Queen *Marry* his Niece to be proclaim'd; and thereupon abrogated the former Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, by inſerting theſe which follow.

I do ſincerely promiſe and ſwear, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to their Majeſties King William and Queen Mary; So help me God.

I do Swear, that I do from my Heart, abhor deteſt, and abjure, as impious and heretical, this damnable Doctrine and Poſition, that Princes excommunicate or deprived by the Pope or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be bepoſed or murthered by their their Subjects, or any other whatſoever; and ſo I declare that no foreign Prince, Perſon, Prelate, State or Potentate hath or ought to have any Juriſdiction, Power, Superiority, Preheminence or Authority, Eccleſiaſtical or Spiritual within this Realm: So help me God.

thus

Thus through the whole Series of this auſpicious Reign, whilſt *William* and *Mary* govern'd, his Lordſhip ſignalized his great Prudence, Wiſdom, and Loyalty, for which he was particularly took notice of by the whole Kingdom; and when it pleaſed God to dePrive us of that good King and Queen, no leſs Zealous was he for the Good and Welfare of our preſent moſt gracious Sovereign Queen *Ann*, to whom he hath the Honour of being Uncle; and his peculiar Care, well meaning to her Majeſty's Intereſt, and and Sincerity for the Proſperity of *Great Britain*, inciting the Queen to reward his loyal Induſtry, with her royal Favours, ſhe was graciouſly pleaſed, after the Change made in the late Miniſtry, to prefer his Lordſhip to the Honour of being Lord Preſident of her honourable *Privy* Council, in which Dignity he took his Place at the Board accordinly.

On the proclaiming of Queen *Ann*, no Subject conld exPreſs a greater Satisfaction of being bleſt with ſo good a Sovereign, than his Lordſhip did; and no leſs was his Joy and Satisfaction at the Coronation of his royal Niece, on St. *George's* Day in 1702. when her Champion Eſq; *Dymock* riding into *Weſtminſter-Hall* on Horſeback, in compleat Armour, he made his Chaallenge in the following Words.

If any Perſon of any Degree whatſoever, high or low ſhall deny or gainſay our Sovereign Lady, Queen Anne, *Queen of* England, France, *and* Ireland, *Defender of the Faith, to be righful Queen of this Realm of* England, *or that ſhe ought not to enjoy the imperial*

Crown

Crown of the ſame, here is her Champion, who ſaith he lieth, and is a falſe Traytor, being ready in Perſon to combat with him, and in this Quarrel will adventure his Life againſt him on what Day ſoever he ſhall appoint.

The right Honourable the Earl of *Rocheſter*, was born in the Year 1651, at *Worceſter* Houſe in the *Strand*, ſince pull'd down, and converted into theſe Streets and Courts called *Beaufort* Buildings. He was a true Vindicator of the Church of *England*, truly Religious; ſedate in Council, a wiſe Statesman, and great Politician; Loyal to the Queen, a ſincere Aſſertor of the Rights and Liberties of his Country, juſt in all his Dealings, Learned, Valiant, and very charitable to the Poor. However all theſe excellent Qualities and extraordinary Virtues, which eminently ſhined in him, being no Defence againſt the Sting of Death, he having ſome Indiſpoſition of late in his Head, he declined acting any publick Buſineſs for the preſent, and was thought to be in perfect Health again; however it pleaſing Heaven to tranſlate his Lordſhip from this terreſtrial Stage of Sorrow and Trouble, to the Regions of eternal Happineſs; he on *Wedneſday* the 2d of *May* 1711, ſeem'd ſo well diſpos'd as to ſit at Dinner, nevertheleſs all hopes of his Lordſhip's being well was ſuddenly vaniſht, for within two Hours after he departed this Life, in the 70th Year of his Age, at his Houſe near the *Cockpit* at *Whitehall*, to the great Grief of all that knew him, as well Grief of his Son, who ſcceeds his Father in his Titles and Honours.

Au

An ELEGY.

HOw momentary are all earthly Things,
When ſudden Death ſuch ſwift Deſtruction brings;
That making no Diſtinction, 'twixt the High
Or Low, his Power learns them both to die.
No Sex, nor Age his Fury will not ſhare,
For Rich nor Poor, he's not reſolv'd to ſpare;
Thus Kings and Nobles muſt from hence depart,
When once grim Death aſſaults them with his Dart.
Alas! grim Death hath now play'd ſuch a Part,
Which grieves each Loyal Subject to the Heart;
Brave Rocheſter, *the Pious, Good, and Juſt,*
Ah! too, too ſoon's reduced unto Duſt;
His Virtues nor his Goodneſs could not ſave
His honourable Perſon from the Grave:
Thus we who're left behind, no more ſhall ſee
So great a Pattern of his Charity;
No more ſhall ſee his Prudence, nor the love
He bore the Crown, that he might Loyal prove.
All theſe Perfections in the Earl combin'd,
Greater in other Men we cannot find,
Which made him much belov'd by all the Peers,
Who Honour his dear Memory with Tears.
Since nothing Stable doth on Earth abide,
No more let us in earthly Things confide,
But mourn the loſs of this renowned Man,
Whoſe Life is now made leſſer than a Span;

But

But though his Lordſhip is ſubdu'd by Fate,
Yet will we always, ever celebrate
The ſplendid Luſtre of his glorious Name,
Which will eternally Record his Fame.

The EPITAPH.

HEre underneath this Marble Stone,
Great *Rochester* doth lie,
Whoſe *Honour* will ſurvive his Name,
For that will never die.
As now he is reduc'd to Duſt,
Let his Mortality,
Unto all People who read this
An early Warning be.

BRISTOL
73071

FINIS.